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DIGITAL EDITION
HAUNT
KIRKMAN
McFARLANE
CAPULLO
GLAPION

ROBERT KIRKMAN Writer

Pencils GREG CAPULLO

JONATHAN GLAPION Inks

Additional Inks TODD McFARLANE

Color FCO PLASCENCIA

Lettering RICHARD STARKINGS

Cover Artist GREG CAPULLO

JEN CASSIDY Managing Editor

ERIC STEPHENSON Publisher for Image Comics

Haunt Created by TODD McFARLANE and ROBERT KIRKMAN

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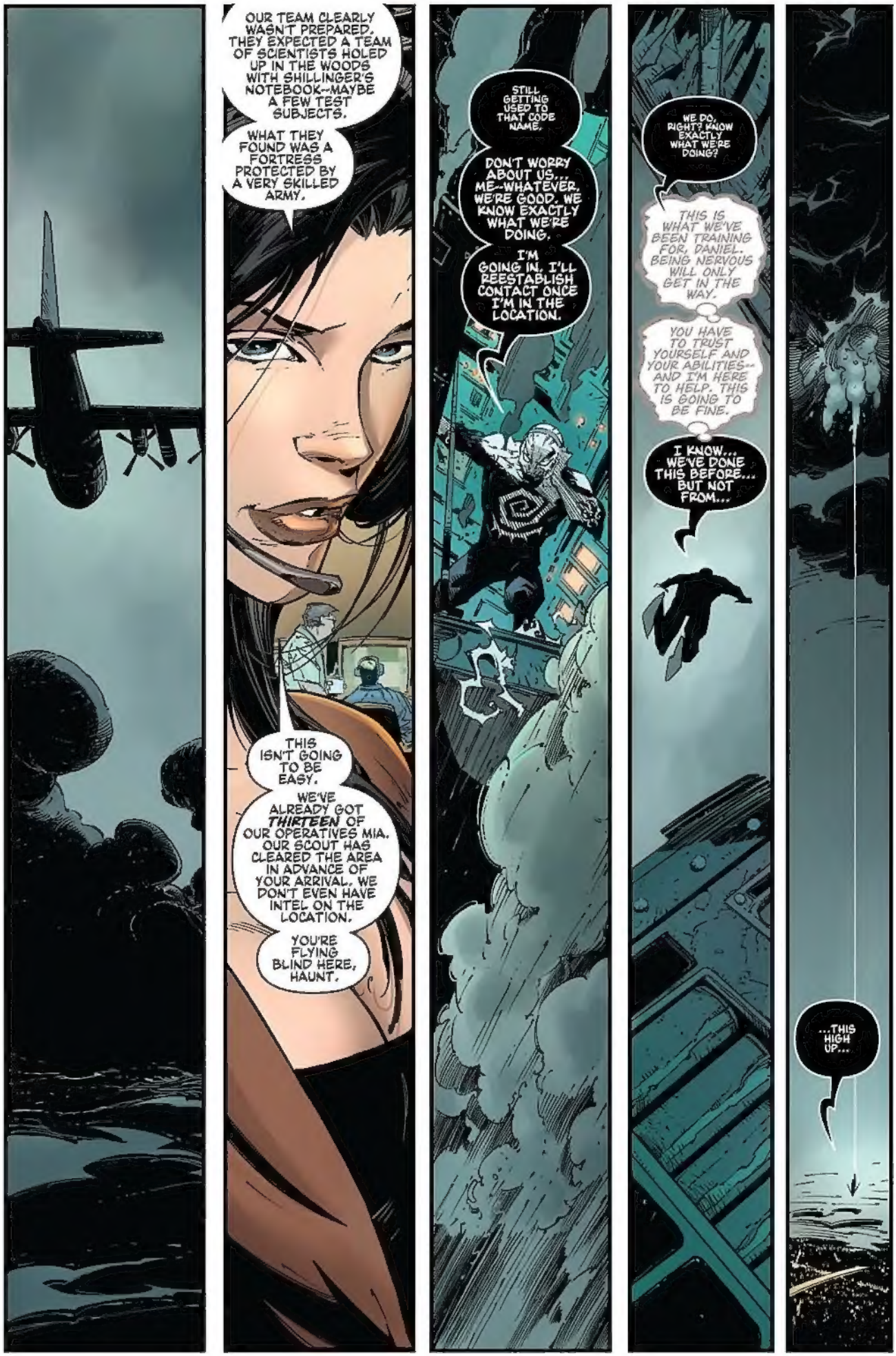
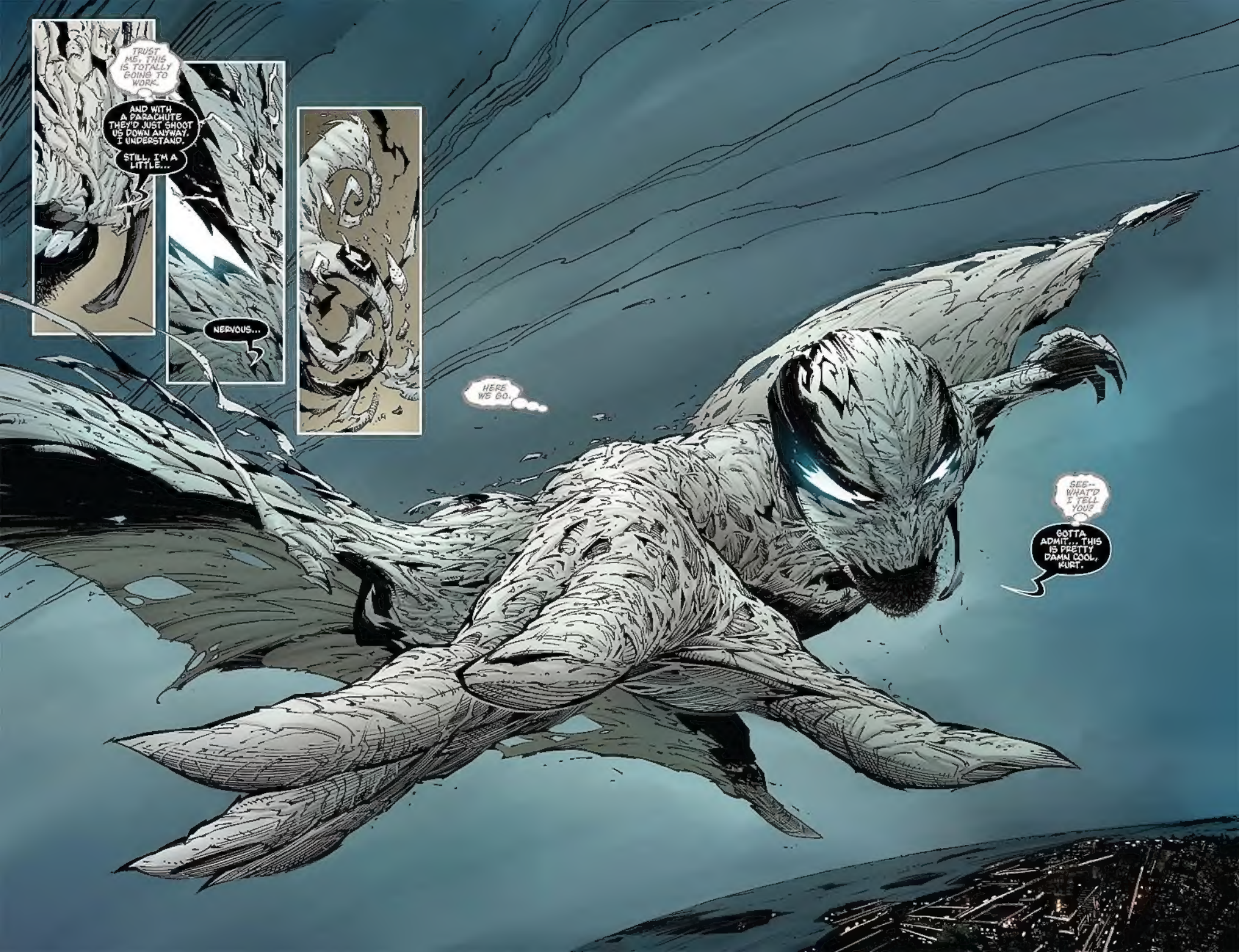

OUR TEAM CLEARLY WASN'T PREPARED. THEY EXPECTED A TEAM OF SCIENTISTS HOLED UP IN THE WOODS WITH SHILLINGER'S NOTEBOOK--MAYBE A FEW TEST SUBJECTS.
WHAT THEY FOUND WAS A FORTRESS PROTECTED BY A VERY SKILLED ARMY.
THIS ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY.
WE'VE ALREADY GOT THIRTEEN OF OUR OPERATIVES MIA. OUR SCOUT HAS CLEARED THE AREA IN ADVANCE OF YOUR ARRIVAL. WE DON'T EVEN HAVE INTEL ON THE LOCATION.
YOU'RE FLYING BLIND HERE, HAUNT.
STILL GETTING USED TO THAT CODE NAME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US... ME--WHATEVER. WE'RE GOOD. WE KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING.
I'M GOING IN. I'LL REESTABLISH CONTACT ONCE I'M IN THE LOCATION.
WE DO, RIGHT? KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WE'RE DOING?
THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN TRAINING FOR, DANIEL. BEING NERVOUS WILL ONLY GET IN THE WAY.
YOU HAVE TO TRUST YOURSELF AND YOUR ABILITIES-- AND I'M HERE TO HELP. THIS IS GOING TO BE FINE.
I KNOW... WE'VE DONE THIS BEFORE... BUT NOT FROM...
...THIS HIGH UP...


TRUST ME. THIS IS TOTALLY GOING TO WORK.
AND WITH A PARACHUTE THEY'D JUST SHOOT US DOWN ANYWAY. I UNDERSTAND.
STILL, I'M A LITTLE...
NERVOUS...
HERE WE GO.
SEE-- WHAT'D I TELL YOU?
GOTTA ADMIT... THIS IS PRETTY DAMN COOL, KURT.

LUCKY--THEY DON'T EVEN SEE US COMING.
LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.
I RECOGNIZE THIS SQUAD--BEST MERCS MONEY CAN BUY. WE NEED TO DO THIS QUICK, BEFORE THEY CAN REGROUP.
HERE WE GO...
SHRAKK
THAT'S IT-- MOVE WITH THE SUIT. YOU'VE GOTTEN GOOD AT THIS!
THONK
AND YOU MOVE WITH ME-- I'M NOT EXACTLY DEAD WEIGHT HERE.
KOK

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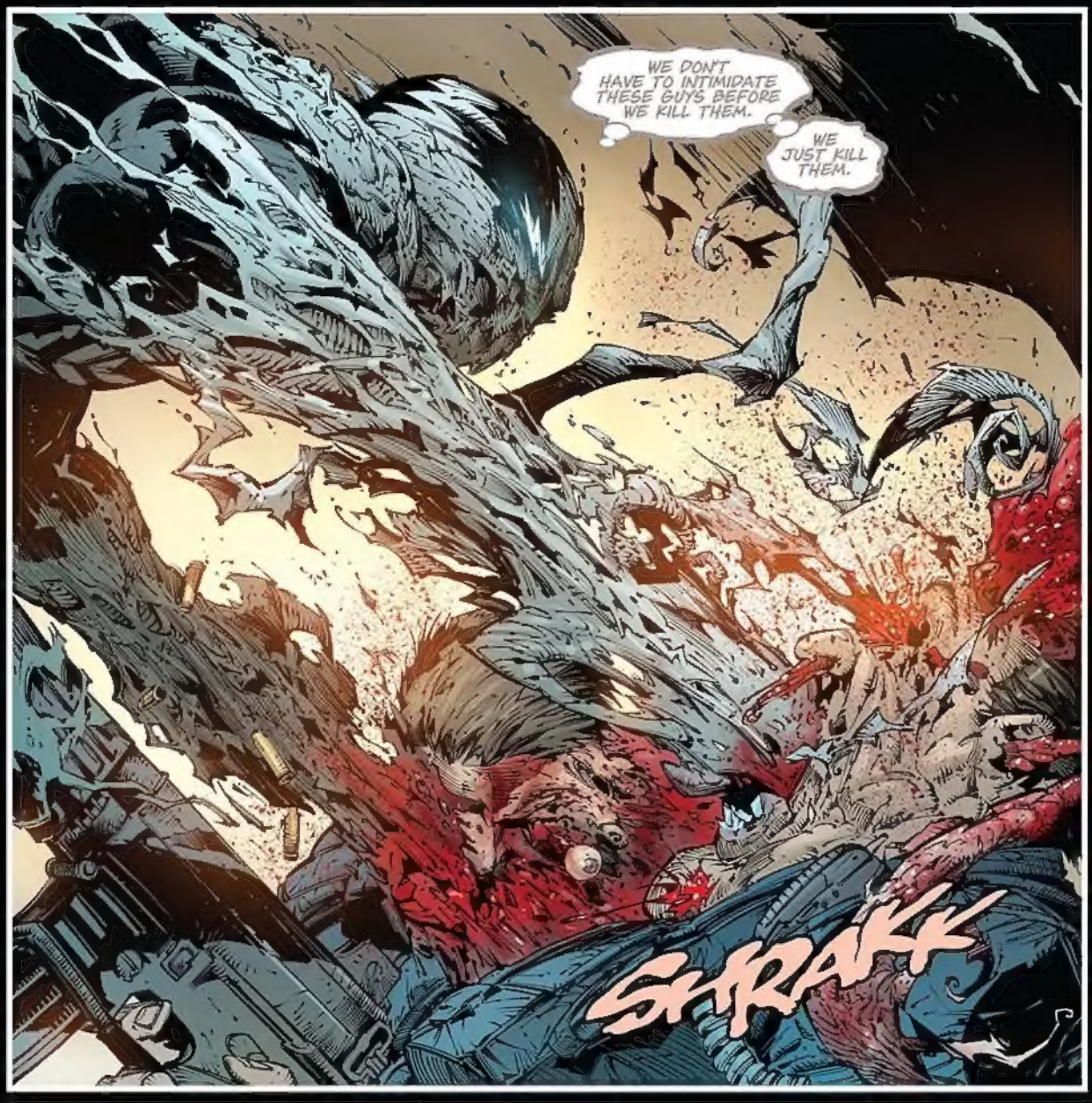
BRAKKA BRAKKA
OKAY--ENOUGH CHATTER.
MOVE!
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHO CARES--I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH WHERE IT WENT.
WELL... IT COULDN'T HAVE JUST DISAPPEARED.
SHHHHH.
BEHIND YOU!
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
WHAT--HOW?!
OKAY...THAT CAUGHT THEM OFF GUARD. GOOD.
I AM YOUR DEATH!
THAT REALLY WASN'T NECESSARY.
REALLY... LESS IS MORE.
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
BRAKKA BRAKKA

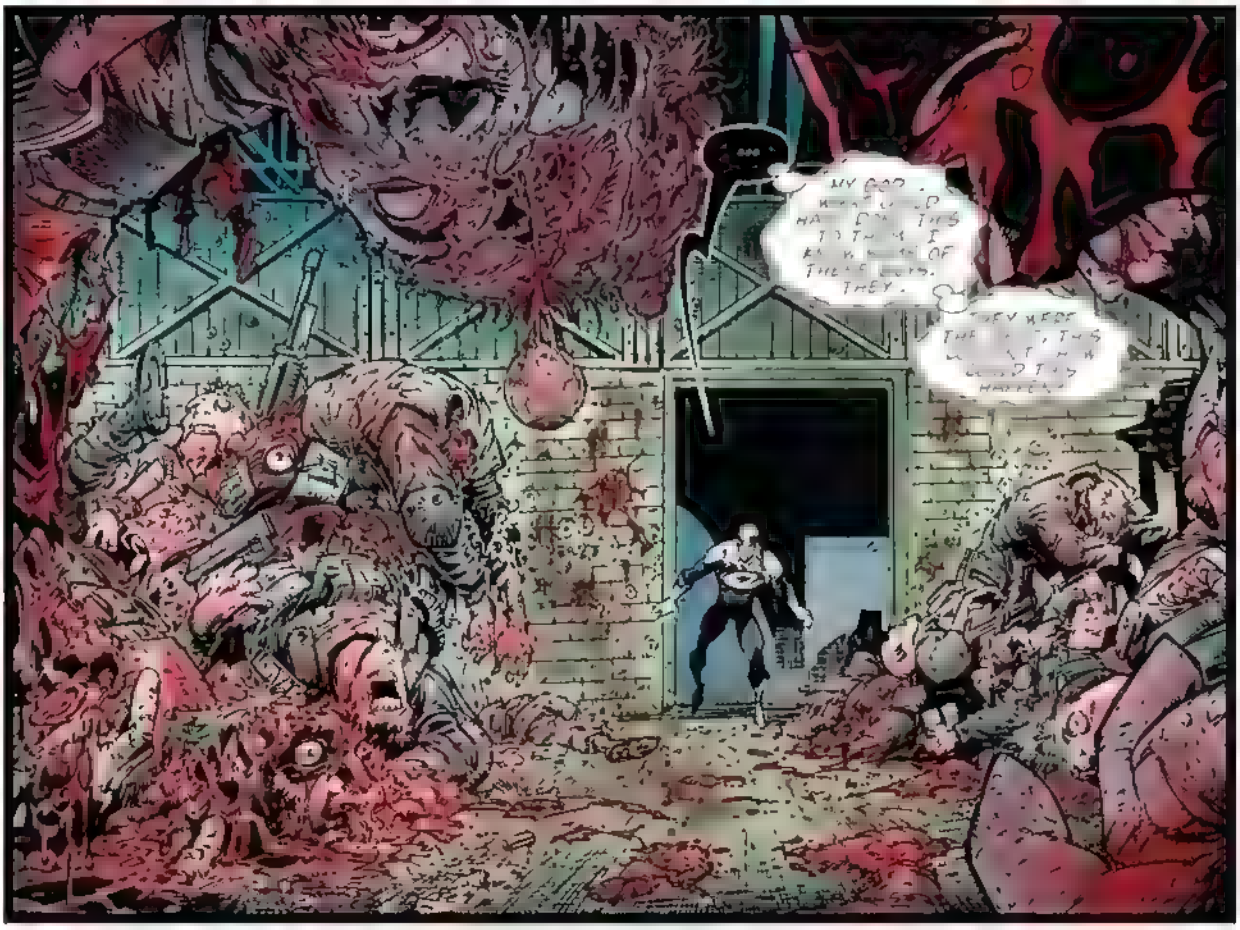

WE DON'T HAVE TO INTIMIDATE THESE GUYS BEFORE WE KILL THEM.
WE JUST KILL THEM.
SKRAKK

AGENT HAUNT TO BASE. ROOF IS CLEAR.
I'M IN.

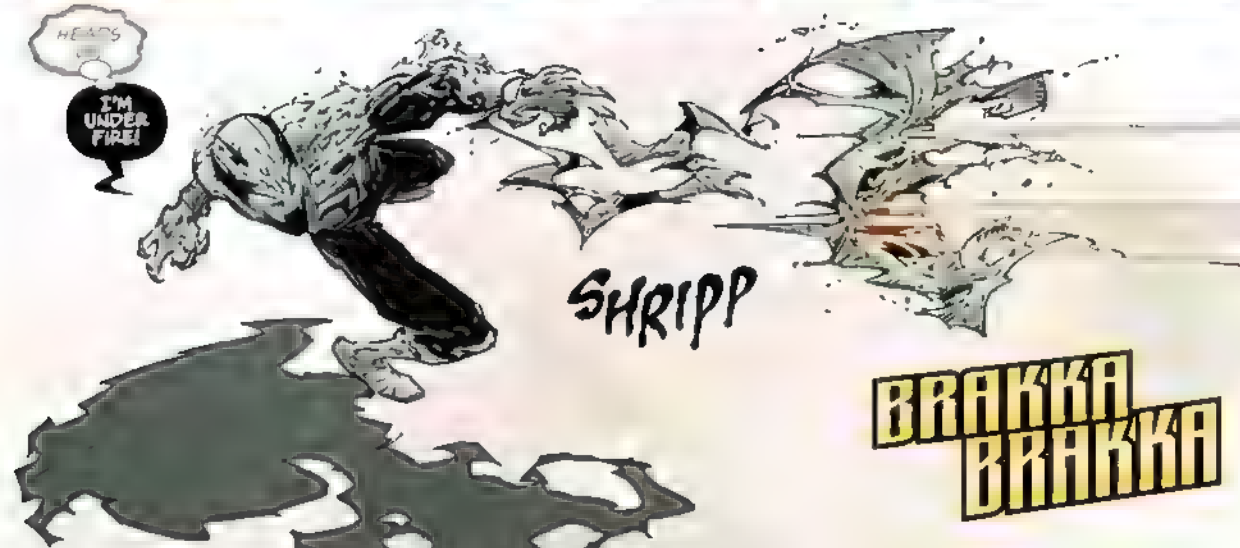
IT WAS A LOT EASIER TALKING TO YOU BEFORE THE BANDAGES CAME OFF, COBRA.
I BOUGHT YOU A MASK, COVER THAT SHIT UP.
YES, DEAR.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR YOU COMPLAINING. THAT THING IS ONE-HUNDRED PERCENT CASHMERE, HAND SEWN BY ANTONIO BUSCHELLI.
HE HAD ALL HIS MODELS WEAR THEM WHEN HE DEBUTED HIS NEWEST LINE LAST WEEK--LET ME KEEP MINE.
I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE HERE WHEN I RETURNED. I THOUGHT YOU WERE THROUGH WITH HURG?
AND NOW WITH THIS INJURY--WHY DO YOU STAY WITH HIM? I REALLY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND IT.
THE MONEY IS GOOD.
MONEY? YOU KNOW I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH MONEY FOR THE BOTH OF US. DON'T TRY TO LIE TO ME.
IT'S THE STABBING. HURG PAYS YOU TO MURDER PEOPLE--THAT'S HOW YOU GET YOUR KICKS.
OH, I USED TO THINK THAT WAS SO HOT--THAT'S WHY I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU.
BUT NOW IT'S LIKE YOU'RE HIS SERVANT--AND THAT FACE... UGH...
IT MAKES ME WANT TO CHEAT ON YOU AGAIN...
OH, RELAX! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING... YET.

HONESTLY, I USED TO LOVE YOUR FACE--IT WAS PERFECT. STRONG, CHISELED, RUGGED...YOU WERE A MAN...
NO... YOU WERE THE MAN...
AND THE GUY WHO DID THIS TO YOU, HE'S STILL OUT THERE? SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE KILLED HIM BY NOW?
I REMEMBER A COBRA WHO WOULD HAVE KILLED FOR LESSER OFFENSES ON THE STOP. ARE YOU GROWING SOFT?
HAS WORKING UNDER HURG MADE YOU--
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M SUDDENLY IN THE MOOD.
TAKE THE MASK OFF--IT'LL BE LIKE SCREWING A MONSTER. NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE.
BUT JENNA-- YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN CALLED AWAY. I'VE GOT TO REPORT IN SOON.... I CAN'T...
THAT'S IT--SHOW SOME BACKBONE. TRY TO REFUSE ME.
YOU'RE JUST MAKING ME WANT IT MORE.
I ONLY NEED A FEW MINUTES.

IT'S A WARZONE IN HERE...I SEE EVIDENCE OF A HUGE FIREFIGHT.
MULTIPLE ASSAILANTS-- LOTS OF SPENT AMMUNITION.
MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST TWO-DOZEN GUYS GOING AT IT FROM THE LOOKS OF IT.
I DON'T SEE HOW ANYBODY WALKED AWAY FROM THIS ONE...
BUT THERE ARE NO BODIES... I DON'T SEE ANY SIGN OF OUR SQUADRON.
I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL... THERE'S NO WAY THIS PLACE IS THIS EMPTY.
STAY ALERT, DANIEL.
WILL DO.
UH... SORRY. I WAS TALKING TO--
CARRYING ON-- I'VE COVERED THE ENTIRE SOUTHEAST QUADRANT OF THE BUILDING... NO SIGN OF ANYONE LIVING OR DEAD--BUT IF THERE ARE LAB FACILITIES HERE, I HAVEN'T FOUND THEM YET.
AT THIS POINT I'M MORE CONCERNED WITH FINDING ANY SIGN OF OUR TWO MISSING SQUADRONS. I DON'T WANT THEIR STATUS TO BE AN UNKNOWN.
WITH THESE EXPERIMENTS BEING DONE--I CAN'T LIVE WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT OUR MEN HAVE BECOME THEIR LAB RATS.
DIRECTOR TOSH.
I'VE FOUND THEM...

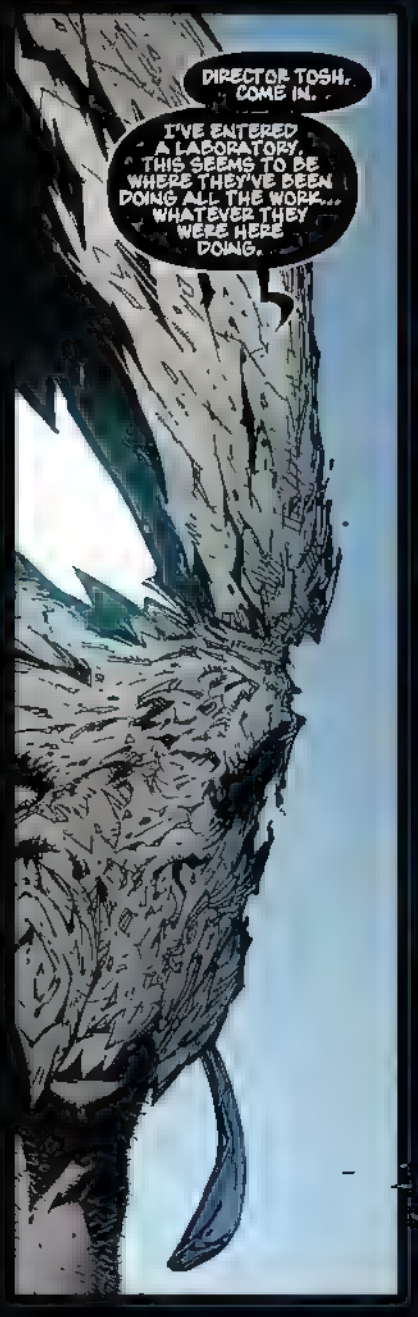


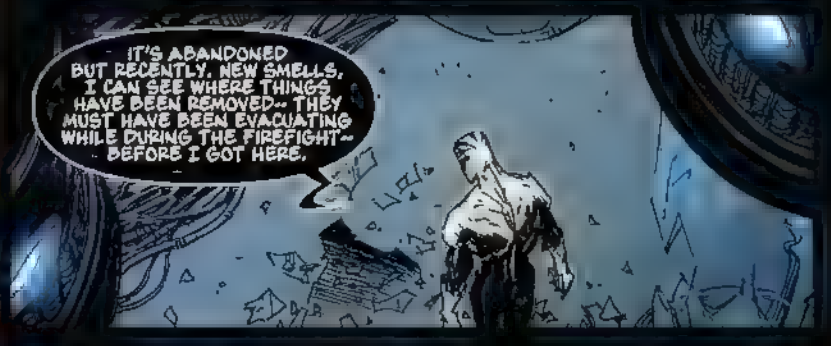
AGENT HAUNT, COME IN.
WHAT IS THEIR STATUS?
THEY'RE DEAD...
...ALL DEAD.


HEADS
I'M UNDER FIRE!
SHRIPP
BRAKKA BRAKKA

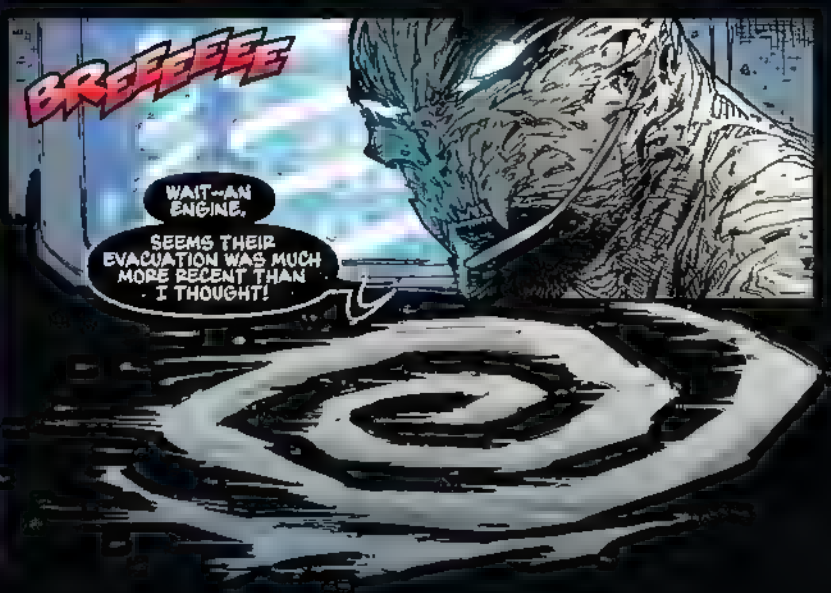
DID YOU SAY "UNDER FIRE?" PLEASE REPEAT!
AGENT HAUNT— COME IN.
OH, NO...
BRAKKA BRAKKA
SPLAGG
SPLUCK
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
I'M STILL HERE.
OPPOSITION IS DOWN... NEED TO WRAP THIS UP SOON.... TIRED...
STARTING TO FEEL DRAINED.
HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND...
OR, WELL... COULD HAVE BEEN.

WE'VE BEEN AT THIS A WHILE--I'VE BEEN CONNECTED TO YOU A WHILE.
I'M NOT FEELING GOOD ABOUT THIS.
THAT'S WHY WE PUSHED OURSELVES DURING TRAINING--WE'RE CLOSE TO THE EDGE, BUT NOT THERE YET. I CAN FEEL IT.
I'LL KNOW.


DIRECTOR TOSH, COME IN.
I'VE ENTERED A LABORATORY. THIS SEEMS TO BE WHERE THEY'VE BEEN DOING ALL THE WORK... WHATEVER THEY WERE HERE DOING.


IT'S ABANDONED BUT RECENTLY. NEW SMELLS. I CAN SEE WHERE THINGS HAVE BEEN REMOVED-- THEY MUST HAVE BEEN EVACUATING WHILE DURING THE FIREFIGHT-- BEFORE I GOT HERE.

I'LL SEE IF I CAN ACCESS ANY OF THEIR DATA-- ALTHOUGH, I'M SURE THEY DUMPED THEIR HARD DRIVES.
I--

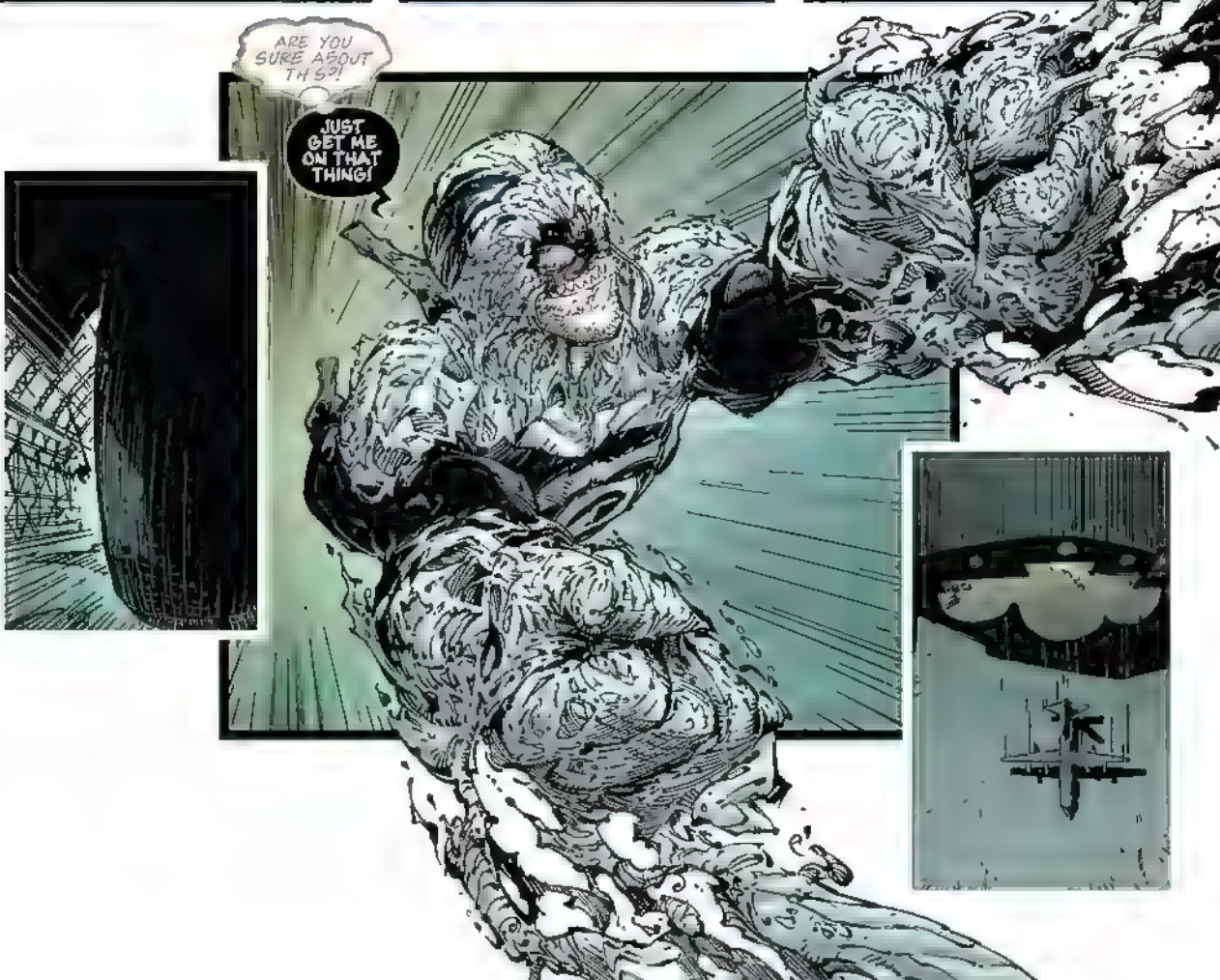

BREEEEEE
WAIT--AN ENGINE.
SEEMS THEIR EVACUATION WAS MUCH MORE RECENT THAN I THOUGHT!

HURRY--THIS IS THE LAST ONE! WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM ON BOARD.
I'M MOVING AS FAST AS I CAN. THESE TEST SUBJECTS WEIGH A TON.

JUST HURRY.

OUR ARMED GUARDS HAVEN'T COME BACK--DID YOU NOTICE THAT?
I DON'T WANT TO WAIT AROUND TO SEE WHAT'S KEEPING THEM. TE... THEM WE'RE IN--LET'S GO!

THEY'RE ALREADY TAKING OFF.
I CAN SEE THAT.


ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?!
JUST GET ME ON THAT THING!

OKAY... NO. NO. NO. NO. NO.
THIS WAS A BAD IDEA. WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?!
I'M A GHOST AND I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS.
IT'S TOO LATE NOW!

JUST NEED--TO PULL-- UP--
YOU'RE EXHAUSTED-- WHY HAVE YOU DONE THIS? THIS IS TOO FAR. WE NEED TO JUMP OFF CUT AND RUN. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO NOW.
NO. NOT TIRED. GET INSIDE-- THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO.
CUT OUR WAY IN--FORCE THEM TO LAND.
EASY.
DIDN'T YOU USED TO SAY I WAS THE CRAZY ONE?
WE'LL BE INSIDE IN NO TIME--DON'T WORRY.
SKRRK
KHUDD
WHA--?!
OH, NO...

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GET UP!
GET UP!
RECOGNIZE ME?!
YOU TOOK MY FACE--NOW I'M GOING TO TAKE YOURS!
BUT I'M NOT GOING TO STOP THERE.
I'M--
STAY STILL--LET HIM KEEP TALKING.
SLICE
THINK I'M NOT PREPARED FOR YOU?!
I KNOW HOW YOU FIGHT--I KNOW ALL YOUR TRICKS!
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS! LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
THEN YOUR LIFE SUCKS!
DON'T TAUNT HIM! YOU'RE TOO WEAK--

WRUNK
WHATEVER-- THIS GUY SUCKS!
I BEAT HIM ONCE-- I CAN DO IT AGAIN!
DON'T BE SO SURE!
VSSH
CAREFUL!
WROKK
DON'T--!
DANIEL!
LOOK AT YOU-- PATHETIC.
DANIEL-- PULL IT TOGETHER.
DON'T DO THIS--NOT NOW.
YOU CAN'T PASS OUT NOW!
YOU GOT LUCKY LAST TIME.
THIS TIME, THOUGH?
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
NOT SO MUCH...

DAMN.

AGENT HAUNT?
AGENT HAUNT--REPORT!
REPORT!
HE'S NOT--THERE'S NO WAY.
HE COULDN'T HAVE. NOT LIKE THIS--NOT AFTER ALL THIS--
HE PULLED IT OFF--HE HAD TO.
START CLEANING UP. DELETE ALL RECORDS. WE WERE NEVER THERE.
ERASE ALL TIES TO ANY OF THE AGENTS LOST IN THE FIELD TODAY.
INCLUDING AGENT HAUNT.
BUT...
HE CAN'T BE DEAD--HE MADE IT.
HE HAD TO.

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COBRA TO BASE. TRACK MY BEACON AND SEND A PICK UP.
I'VE GOT SOMETHING HURG IS GOING TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN.